

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 54-139 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 54, 58, 68, 73, 75, 77, 80, 82, 85, 86, 87, 91, 93, 96, 97, 103, 117, 118, 123, 124, 129, 130 and 135 being the independent claims. Claims 2-53 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 54-139 are sought to be added. Support for new claims 54-139 is found, *inter alia*, in original claims 2-53. Support is additionally found for the nucleic acid ranges of claims 54-74 in the specification on page 12, lines 11-13, and page 37, lines 3-12; for the DSM 7214 and 8440 deposits in original claim 26; the hybridization and wash conditions on page 7, lines 18-20; and the NDP-MSH binding assay on pages 49 and 82 of the specification, Example 3 and Figures 5, 6 and 9; and, elsewhere throughout the specification. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is respectfully believed that the present application is in condition for examination. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michele A. Cimballa
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 33,851

Date: 1/23/02
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

Version with markings to show changes made

In the title:

The title was deleted and the following title was substituted therefor:

"Human Melanocyte Stimulating Hormone Receptor Polypeptide and DNA"

Claims 2-53 were cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 54-139 were added.